

What Is Claimed Is:

1. A device for sealing and packaging cover film onto a tray, comprising:

means for moving touch bars provided at equidistant intervals and spanning between endless chains in respective side positions, in a unified manner with said chains, and pushing and advancing respective trays along the upper face of a horizontal conveyance path, at equidistant intervals in a column fashion, by means of the respective touch bars;

a general frame moving back and forth reciprocally in the same direction as said touch bars, in a cutaway region in an intermediate part of said conveyance path;

bridge plates fixed to said general frame and moving back and forth reciprocally in a unified manner with said general frame, within the cutaway region at the same height as the face of said conveyance path;

a lifting mechanism for moving a sealing base frame disposed surrounding said bridge plates, upwards and downwards, about the periphery of said bridge plates, in response to the reciprocal movement of said frame;

sealers fixed to said general frame above said sealing base frame and having the same outline as the open edge of the tray supported on said sealing base; and

a film conveyance mechanism for moving a band-shaped film between said sealers and said bridge plates, in the same direction as said touch bars;

wherein, when said lifting mechanism performs an upward movement, said band-shaped film is pressed by said sealing base frame against film pushing elements disposed in isolated fashion about the periphery of said sealers,

and with further upward movement of the lifting mechanism, said band-shaped film is pressed against and welded by said sealers at the open edge of the trays placed on said sealing base, while said band-shaped film is pushed upwards by a to-be-packaged item accommodated in said tray in a mounded fashion, and furthermore, said band-shaped film is pressed against endless blades surrounding the periphery of said sealers and is cut out in accordance with the outlines of said trays.

2. The device for sealing and packaging cover film onto a tray according to claim 1, wherein pairs of upper and lower directing rollers gripping the respective side edges of the band-shaped film are supported and arranged on an immobile machine platform differing from the general frame, at respective sides to the rear of said sealing base frame facing in the direction of travel of said respective trays, these rollers on either side being arranged at an inclined angle in such a manner that said band-shaped film is tensioned towards either side, in the direction of travel thereof, and moreover, a one-way clutch whereby each roller is able to perform free rotation only in the direction of travel of said band-shaped film being disposed inside each of the directing rollers.

3. The device for sealing and packaging cover film onto a tray according to claim 1, wherein a transfer region disposed between the front and rear faces of the general frame and the cutaway region of the conveyance path is composed in such a manner that it extends and contracts in accordance with the reciprocal movement of said frame.

4. The device for sealing and packaging cover film onto a tray according to claim 1, wherein the movement of the touch bars at the moment that the sealing base frame is pushed up towards the sealers is halted temporarily while said sealing base frame is raised up above said touch bars.

5. The device for sealing and packaging cover film onto a tray according to claim 1, wherein the film is temporarily halted and the touch bars are temporarily caused to retreat, at the moment that the sealing base frame is pushed up towards the sealers.

6. A device comprising:

means for moving touch bars provided at equidistant intervals and spanning between endless chains in respective side positions, in a unified manner with said chains, and pushing and advancing respective trays along the upper face of a horizontal conveyance path, at equidistant intervals in a column fashion, by means of the respective touch bars;

a general frame provided in a fixed manner in a cutaway region in an intermediate part of said conveyance path;

bridge plates provided in a fixed manner on said general frame within the cutaway region at the same height as the face of said conveyance path;

a lifting mechanism for moving a sealing base frame disposed surrounding said bridge plates, upwards and downwards;

sealers fixed to said general frame above said sealing base frame and having the same outline as the open edge of the tray supported on said sealing base; and

a film conveyance mechanism for causing a band-shaped film to move between said sealers and said bridge plates, intermittently, in the same direction as said touch bars;

wherein, when said lifting mechanism performs an upward movement, said band-shaped film is pressed by said sealing base frame against film pushing elements disposed in isolated fashion about the periphery of said sealers, and with further upward movement of the lifting mechanism, said band-shaped film is pressed against and welded to said sealers at the open edge of the trays placed on said sealing base, while said band-shaped film is pushed upwards by a to-be-packaged to be packaged accommodated in said tray in a mounded fashion, and furthermore, said band-shaped film is pressed against endless blades surrounding the periphery of said sealers and is cut out in accordance with the outlines of said trays.

7. The device according to claim 6, wherein the touch bars are caused temporarily to retreat at the moment that the sealing base frame is pushed upwards towards the sealers, thereby avoiding collision between the touch bars and the sealing base frame.